

OCS Safety Facts

An annual update of statistics through December 31, 2000

Background

The Minerals Management Service's (MMS) mission is to manage the mineral resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The Federal OCS encompasses about 1.76 billion acres. About 25 percent of the oil and gas produced in the United States comes from the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) OCS, where more operations-related activity occurs than in any other region in the world.

The outlook continues to be good for activity in the GOM, as acreage from GOM lease sales is explored and developed and as new companies and workers join in the pursuit. Companies, using new technology and procedures, are actively pursuing exploration and development activities in unprecedented water depths.

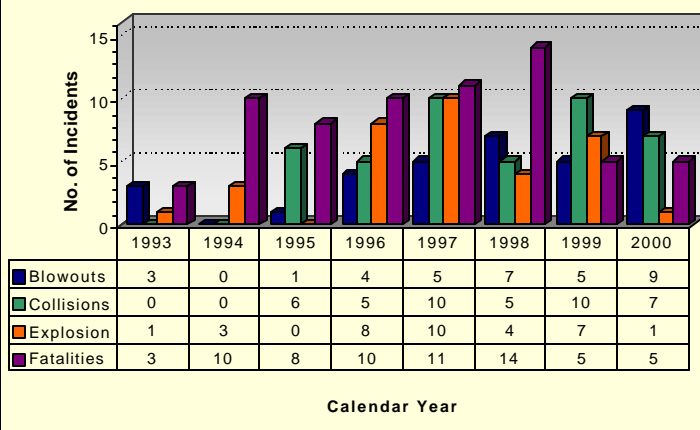
To ensure that all OCS exploration, development, and production activity continues in a safe and environmentally sound manner, MMS closely monitors and analyzes all incident-related data reported to MMS and works to achieve its mission through a comprehensive regulatory program, which includes facility inspections, incident investigations, and enforcement actions. Regulations currently require operators to notify MMS of accidents, deaths or serious injuries, and all fires, explosions, and blowouts associated with operations on a lease.

OCS Incident Statistics: 1993-2000

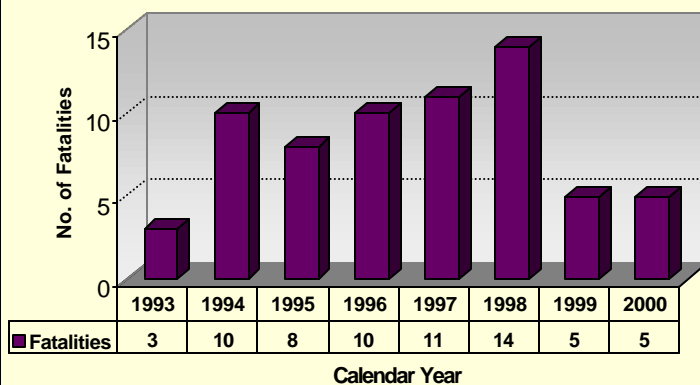
This factsheet focuses only on blowouts, collisions, explosions, and fatalities because these incidents tend to have more serious consequences (see chart top right).

FATALITIES: From 1993 to 1998, the number of fatalities increased for the most part (see graph above). In 1999, the number of fatalities was

**OCS Incidents Reported to MMS:
1993-2000**



**OCS Fatalities Reported to MMS:
1993-2000**



significantly lower and remained the same in 2000. Well over half of the fatalities from 1993 to 2000 resulted from individuals falling or being struck by moving or falling equipment. A significant number of the fatalities involved crane or other lifting operations. For more information about these fatalities and about crane incidents, see MMS's Offshore Safety website at <http://www.mms.gov/cranes/>.

EXPLOSIONS: Of 34 explosions reported to MMS between 1993 to 2000 (see graph at right), 24 were related to production operations, 4 to drilling operations, 1 to a workover, 1 to completion operations, and 1 to abandonment operations. Also, one explosion resulted from a collision between a shrimp trawler and a satellite well, another from a blowout during completion operations, and another from a ruptured gas pipeline. Six of the 34 explosions involved compressors, and another 4 involved welding operations.

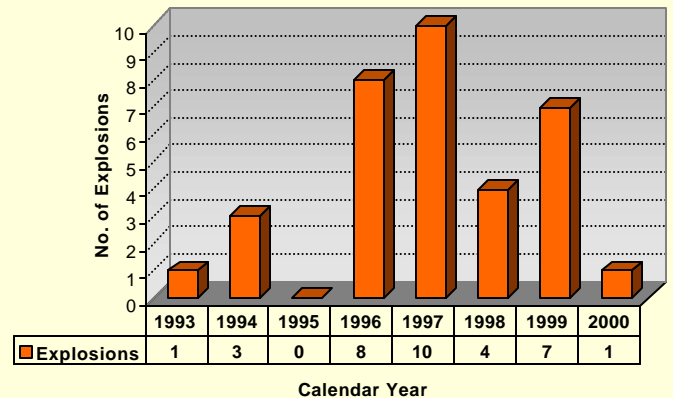
BLOWOUTS: There were nine blowouts during calendar year 2000: one workover related and eight drilling related. Of the eight drilling related blowouts, one involved a riser disconnect, six involved cementing, and one resulted when the rig experienced a kick. The graph at right shows a total of 34 blowouts reported to MMS between 1993 and 2000. Of the 34 blowouts, 23 were related to drilling operations, 4 to completions, 4 to workovers, 2 to production operations, and 1 to well abandonment. Over half of the drilling blowouts involved development drilling. Ten of the drilling blowouts were associated with shallow gas flows. Most of the blowouts were of short duration; 17 lasted less than a day. Two blowouts involved minor injuries, and none involved fatalities.

COLLISIONS: Seven collisions occurred during calendar year 2000. Most of the 44 collisions reported to MMS between 1995 and 2000 (see graph at right) involved a marine vessel striking an OCS facility. No collisions were reported in 1993 or 1994. In December 1998, MMS and the U.S. Coast Guard signed an agreement that provides for continued close coordination in working to reduce these incidents.

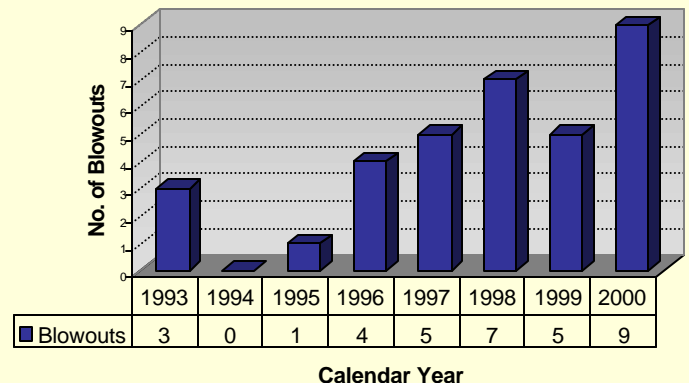
Overall Perspective of OCS Safety: 1968-2000

Despite the rise in the number of incidents reported to MMS through 1997, the overall record for the past 33 years indicates that OCS operations are generally safer. See the downward

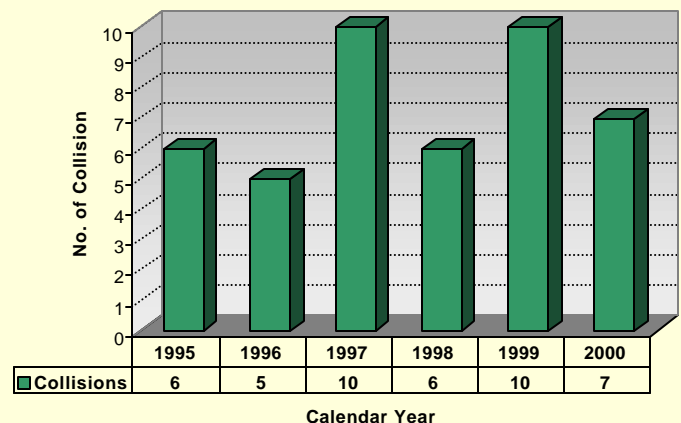
OCS Explosions Reported to MMS: 1993-2000



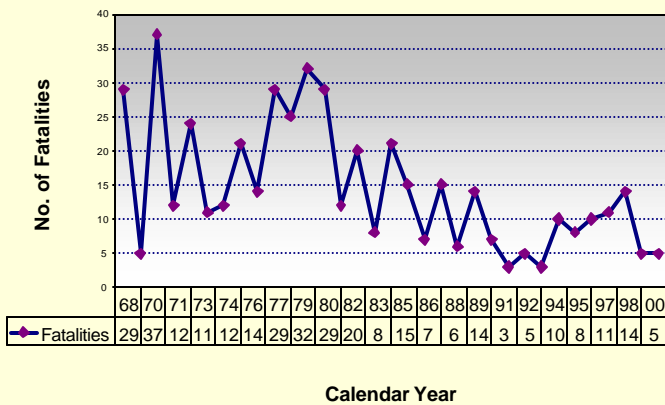
OCS Blowouts Reported to MMS: 1993-2000



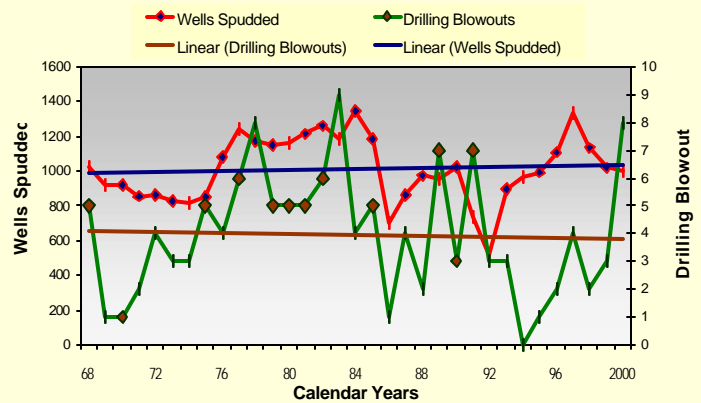
OCS Collisions Reported to MMS: 1993-2000



OCS Fatalities Reported to MMS: 1968-2000



OCS Wells Spudded vs. Drilling Blowouts: 1968-2000



trend in the two graphs above (i.e., the rise and fall in fatalities [top left] and the activity trend [top right] based on wells spudded showing a gradual increase in activity in contrast to a gradual downward trend in drilling blowouts).

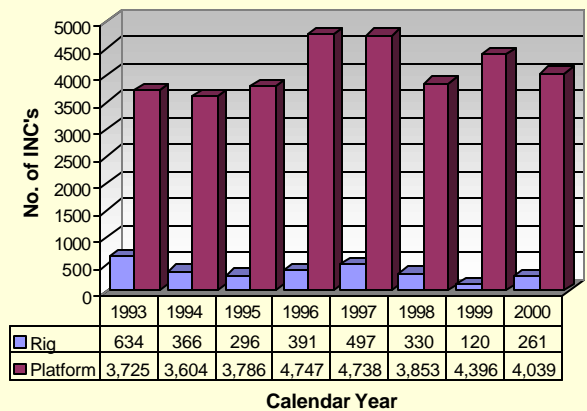
Inspection & Enforcement Program

Onsite facility inspections and enforcement actions are important components of MMS's safety program. During an inspection, MMS inspectors may issue an Incident of Non-compliance (INC) for violation of safety and environmental protection regulations. Depending on the seriousness of the violation, MMS may issue a warning (least serious), order the shut-in of a component, or order the shut-in of the entire facility (most serious).

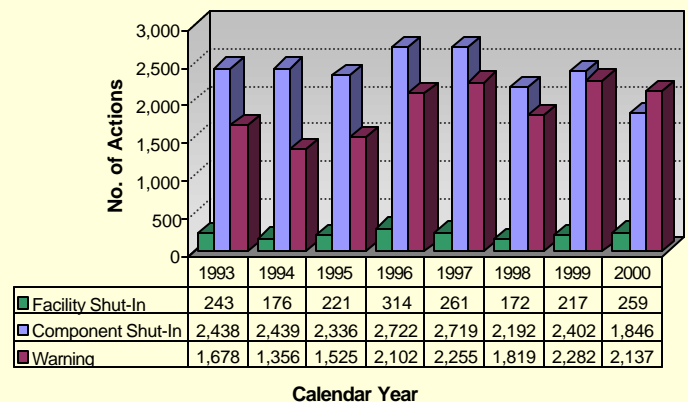
Enforcement actions for the past 8 years were primarily component shut-ins and warnings. The graphs at right show the number of OCS INC's issued and enforcement actions taken by MMS nationwide during 1993-2000.

One of the more serious types of INC's issued is for locking out or bypassing safety devices under conditions other than startup, testing, or maintenance. This situation is of particular concern to MMS because it renders a safety device inoperative. The graph at right shows the number of these INC's issued from 1993-2000.

MMS INC's Issued: 1993-2000



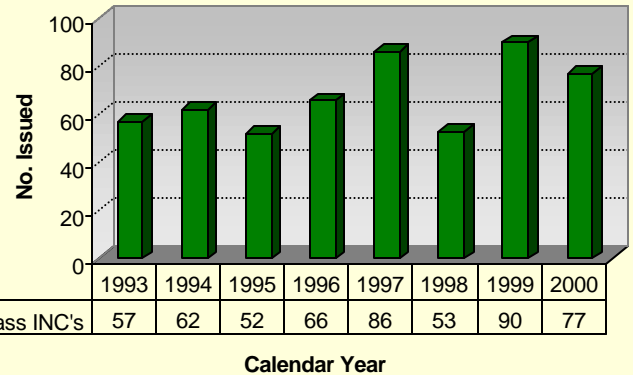
MMS Inspection Enforcement Actions: 1993-2000



CIVIL PENALTIES: MMS also has authority to issue and collect fines through the agency's Civil Penalties Program. Passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and recent policy changes related to the assessment of civil penalties have resulted in the collection of over \$5 million in civil penalties from 244 U.S. OCS civil penalty cases. The second graph at right shows the number of cases completed and civil penalties collected from OCS operators since 1993. For more information about OCS civil penalties, please see the MMS website at <http://www.mms.gov/civilpenalties>.

MONITORING SAFETY PERFORMANCE: In addition to periodic facility inspections, MMS monitors the safety performance of individual companies through incident investigations and annual company performance reviews. Also, some companies voluntarily share performance data with MMS through cooperative programs such as the OCS Performance Measures Program. That program produces annual rates for 20 different types of offshore incidents. For more information about OCS Performance Measures and on OCS-Related Incidents, please see the MMS websites at <http://www.mms.gov/perfmeas/index.htm> and <http://www.mms.gov/stats/OCSincident.htm>, respectively.

INC's MMS Issued for Bypassed Safety Device: 1993-2000



Civil Penalties MMS Collected from OCS Operators : 1993-2000

